

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12-14, and 16-18 are present in this application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, and 14 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating in the Advisory Action of December 26, 2006 that claims 6, 7, and 16 - 18 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102(b) – Koefeld

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,260,706 (Koefeld). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1 and 9

Applicant had argued that Koefeld does not teach or suggest the claimed “positioning portion provided along the entire periphery of said frame, for determining the positioning relationship between the display substrate accommodating tray and another display substrate accommodating tray which is to be stacked thereon,” as recited in claims 1 and 9.

The Office Action indicates that the bottom surfaces of walls 14, 16, 18, and 20 in Figure 3 constitute the claimed “positioning portion.” The perspective in Figure 3 shows walls 14, 16, 18 and 20 as the outer periphery. In further comments, the Office Action had stated that: “The bottom surface of the frame has the ability to sit on the other tray as in stacked up configuration.” Thus, the claims are being interpreted as though walls having a bottom portion provided along the entire periphery of the frame/walls and having the ability to sit on another tray in a stacked up configuration reads on the claimed function of “determining the positioning relationship between the display substrate accommodating tray and another display substrate accommodating tray which is stacked thereon.”

Applicant submits that walls 14, 16, 18, and 20 fail to provide a function of “positioning ... for determining the positioning relationship between the display substrate accommodating tray and another display substrate accommodating tray which is to be stacked thereon.”

When viewing Fig. 8, it can be seen that walls 18 and 20 in the upper tray would be in a position above walls 14' and 16' in the bottom tray. (Note that Fig. 8 is not clearly marked as it shows a numerical reference 18' pointing to a wall in the top tray and the bottom tray; it appears that the label pointing to the upper tray should be 18). In addition, when viewing Fig. 10, it can be seen that walls 14 and 16 in the upper tray are in a position above top portions of walls 14 and 16 in the bottom tray. Thus, the figures show either walls 14 and 16 in a positioning relationship or walls 18 and 20 in a positioning relationship, rather than all four walls 14, 16, 18, and 20.

Thus, Applicant submits that walls 14, 16, 18, and 20 fail to constitute the claimed positioning portion provided along the entire periphery of said frame. In order to clarify this distinction, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to indicate that the entire positioning portion determines the positional relationship. In other words, the claims require that the entire positioning portion (provided along the entire periphery of the frame) provide a function of determining a positioning relationship, not just two opposite sides.

Applicant request that the rejection of claims 1 and 9, as well as respective dependent claims, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 14

With respect to claim 14, the Office Action had presented an argument that "elements 32 and 39 can also be considered as engaging section that provide grip for a human being to lift and transport the tray." Applicants had explained that element 32 is actually a "projection," see Fig. 10, and that element 39 is actually a "recessed portion," see Fig. 12.

Applicant submits that Koefeldt does not disclose that elements 32 or 39 serve as a grip for a human to lift and carry the tray, much less "to be engaged by a carrying portion," as required in the claim.

Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 14 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) – Koefeldt, Akihiro

Claims 6-8, 13, and 17 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koefeldt in view of JP 11-059893 (Akihiro). Based on the amendment to

claim 6, the Advisory Action indicated that claim 6, and respective dependent claims, are allowed. By the present amendment, claim 8 has been amended to recite that the second support member moves upward when the accommodating tray is being removed. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on claim 8 as amended.

Claim 8 recites, among other things, "...a second supporting member adapted to be pushed downwards by said accommodating tray." Also, claim 8 has been amended to recite that the second support member moves upward when the accommodating tray is being removed.

This feature had been indicated as being allowable with respect to claim 15. Applicant submits that for at least the reasons that the features of claim 15 were considered to distinguish over Koefeld, the features of claim 8 should be considered allowable as well. Applicant requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) – Koefeld, Nakajima

Claims 5 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koefeld in view of JP 2003-236953 (Nakajima). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that Nakajima fails to make up for the deficiencies in Koefeld. At least for the reasons above for claims 1 and 9, Applicant submits that the rejection fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness for claims 5 and 12. Applicant requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert Downs Reg. No. 48,222 at

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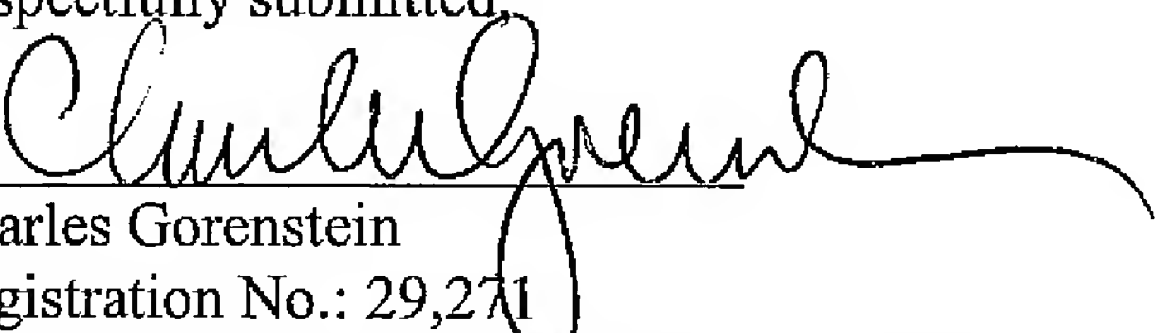
Docket No.: 0717-0513P

the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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